

Apples and Oranges/Cattle and Wild Horses

You've probably heard it on the radio or read it in the newspaper. Why can't wild horse numbers be the same as cattle numbers on the public lands? To understand the differences, one needs to look at the legislation which governs these animals and the lands designated by Congress for their use.

Taylor Grazing Act

In the 1930s when "dust bowls" were a great concern, Congress passed the Taylor Grazing Act. The 1934 act provides a way to regulate the occupancy and use of the public lands. The Act established a Grazing Service division, which later became the Bureau of Land Management.

The Secretary of the Interior created grazing districts on the public lands and published regulations concerning rangelands. In Nevada there are about 44.5 million acres within six grazing districts and almost 3.1 million acres outside grazing districts. A grazing permit system was developed for applicants who meet the requirements of base property and ownership or control of the livestock.

Cattle, sheep and domestic horses may use the lands based on availability of water and forage which is affected by the season. Permits may be revoked during emergencies such as range depletion caused

by drought or wildfire. Permittees are expected to be hands on, moving livestock within grazing allotments so vegetation has an opportunity for regrowth.

Wild Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act

The population of wild horses and burros on Western lands had diminished drastically by the 1970s.

Some of this loss was because of man's encroachment and some because of the actions of "mustangers."

Some mustangers captured wild horses in ways that are considered inhumane and sold them for whatever profit they could make. The inhumane treatment and dwindling numbers led Congress to pass a law in December 1971, to protect, manage and control wild free-roaming horses and burros on public lands.

The Act recognized wild free-roaming horses and burros as an integral part of the natural system of the public lands. The Act also prevented the Secretary from relocating wild free-roaming horses or burros to areas of the public lands where they did not presently exist.

The BLM was charged with protecting and managing the equines as part of the public

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LAWS GOVERNING
WILD HORSES/BURROS
AND **LIVESTOCK**
QUITE DIFFERENT

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State Director's Comments



BLM offices in Nevada recently underwent a general management evaluation or what we call a GME. These evaluations are making a comeback at BLM after a 13-year hiatus. A GME is conducted to address management and employee issues and concerns and to evaluate work processes to identify efficiencies, inefficiencies, and best management practices. The objective of this evaluation is to give the BLM state leadership teams an assessment of how effective the offices are performing and to make recommendations for improvement, if necessary.

The GME takes a careful look at management accountability. The expectation is that managers are responsible for the quality and timeliness of program performance, increasing productivity, controlling costs and mitigating adverse aspects of agency operations, and assuring that programs are managed with integrity and in compliance with the law.

To find out this information, a review team of BLM managers from other states, traveled to Nevada and started asking questions. Internally, all of the nearly 800 BLM employees in Nevada had the opportunity to respond to a questionnaire. The team conducted face-to-face interviews with employees at the Winnemucca and Carson City field offices

and the State Office. Externally, the team interviewed a wide variety of customers, stakeholders and partners.

Overall, the results of the GME are very positive. Almost universally, employees are glad to be a part of BLM Nevada and find meaning and value in their daily contribution to BLM's mission. At the same time, the GME found employee morale to be fairly low in some Nevada offices. Employees genuinely feel that we have exceeded our capacity to meet public expectations. Clearly there is a distinction between job satisfaction and employee morale.

The interviews with public land constituents were complimentary in their praise of BLM employees, citing the responsiveness and dedication of agency personnel in tackling the many difficult issues facing public land management in Nevada. The most common concern expressed by those interviewed was the capability of BLM to continue to serve the public in the face of ever-growing workloads. Some other concerns expressed included a lack of consistency among the field offices, the need for comprehensive off-highway vehicle travel management, and escalating costs related to special use permits.

Recommendations for improvements were made by the GME team members, and now our office will take appropriate action to continue building on the positive findings while addressing the few deficiencies which were noted.

Our mutual challenge has become how we can better coordinate work among ourselves and how we can motivate each other to

do more. My motivation stems from my understanding of the importance of BLM's mission. Every time I visit the lands that we manage and interact with our employees I am re-energized by the beauty of these lands and the importance of the resources we manage on behalf of the public. I am also motivated by the knowledge that BLM performs numerous functions which improves the quality of life for the people we serve.

I recently commended BLM employees for their efforts in creating a positive public land legacy and in helping shape the future of Nevada. I also commend the private sector for your help to BLM employees in meeting the demands and providing additional opportunities to enjoy public lands. Those of us who work in public service have ended up in one of the toughest jobs around. Public service and public land management is not for everyone. In each of our positions, we work with people. By that I mean we deal with moods, tempers, unrealistic expectations, and misunderstandings. The emotional effort we expend each day can be quite taxing. However, I have found that working with people is enjoyable, especially when we are working together for the common good.

My expectations of BLM employees are high and I hold each to the same standard I expect of myself: to provide the public with the quality of service they expect, demand and deserve; and to put forth our best efforts every day. We may not be able to achieve everything we want to accomplish, but we can still make positive strides each day.

– Bob Abbey

Editor's note:
The GME final report will be posted at www.nv.blm.gov.

APPLES AND ORANGES/CATTLE AND WILD HORSES (continued from page 1)

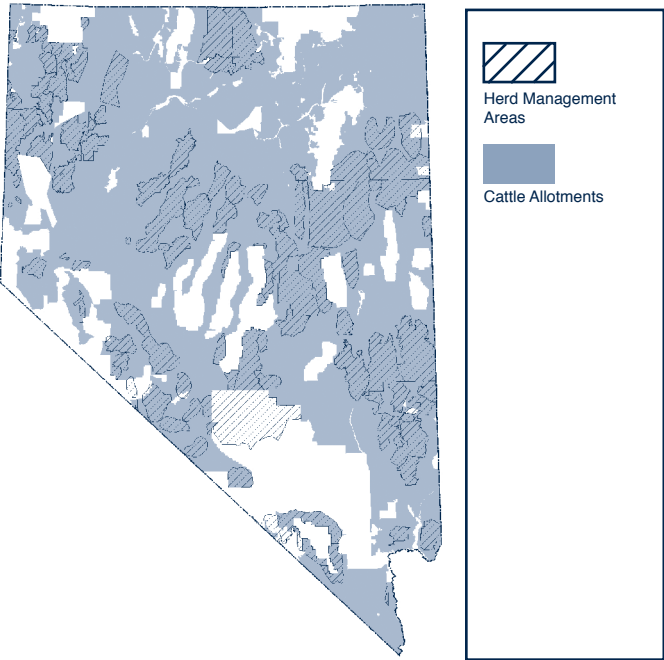
lands and determining specific ranges on public lands in consultation with state wildlife agencies and the national Advisory Board. Private land owners were given the ability to call for the removal of wild free-roaming horses and burros which stray from public lands.

In Nevada wild horses and burros are managed in herd management areas (HMAs) which cover a little more than 15.7 million acres of public lands. That is considerably less than the nearly 45 million acres of rangelands for use by permitted livestock.

While grazing permits specify the periods when livestock can be on the rangelands, wild horses and burros live within the HMAs all year long without the opportunity for periodic rest or deferment of the rangeland. The Act directs that all management activities shall be at the minimal feasible level for wild horses and burros—quite different than the involvement required for livestock permits.

When the number of wild horses becomes too large for the available forage and water in a herd management area to support, the only recourse is to remove some of the excess animals. Gather and removal is the principal method to keep wild horse and burro numbers in check. Birth control for mares is conducted under the supervision of researchers and the U. S. Humane Society. The Humane Society holds the license for the drug. This method shows promise. The BLM is working towards making it a reliable tool in keeping the numbers of wild horses in a balance with the resources.

– Maxine Shane
Nevada State Office



Nevada Sage is published by the Nevada State Office, Bureau of Land Management, to inform the public and employees about BLM programs, people and activities in Nevada.

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Design by MeshCreative
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BLM/NV/GI-05/008

Setting Appropriate Management Levels For Wild Horses and Burros

Back in 1971, before the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act was passed, Congress asked BLM to identify herd areas for wild horses and burros. Herd areas were designated where wild horses or burros were located when the Act was passed. In ensuing years, the BLM established herd management areas (HMAs) through its planning process. HMAs are habitats within herd areas where BLM determined wild horses or burros can be successfully managed over the long-term.

Following establishment of HMAs, the BLM moved to the significant job of determining the appropriate management level (AML) for wild horses and burros in each HMA. AML is accomplished by determining what the carrying capacity—forage, space, water, and cover—of the area is for all animals: wild horses, burros, wildlife and livestock. Forage and habitat is allocated among these competing species to ensure an ecological balance among all the users and resources of the HMA. This task is complicated, time consuming, and sometimes controversial.

In Nevada, BLM uses a multiple-use decision process to set AML on its 102 HMAs. So far, AML has been set for 88 of these HMAs. BLM will set AML on most of the remaining HMAs by the end of the year. The statewide AML estimate for wild horses and burros is currently about 14,000 animals.

The multiple-use decision process has three steps: **1)** Evaluation via environmental analysis; **2)** Standards determination and; **3)** Proposed and final multiple-use decisions.

1) In the evaluation step, a BLM interdisciplinary team compares existing management practices against resource objectives, including standards for rangeland health. It identifies areas where standards are being met and areas where improvement is needed. When improvement is needed or where progress is not being made towards meeting the standards, BLM determines what is causing the problem and proposes methods for correction. The evaluation process provides for extensive public involvement.

2) The standards determination documents conformance with rangeland health standards. Suggestions for corrective actions may include changing stocking rates for wild horses, burros and livestock, and management actions that will improve habitat and overall ecological health.

3) The BLM documents the results of its evaluation in an environmental assessment which considers various management alternatives. It considers public comment received during the scoping portion of the planning process. A proposed multiple-use decision is issued that consists of a livestock grazing management decision, a wild horse and burro management decision, and a wildlife decision. Those who have participated in the planning process may protest if they disagree.

BLM reevaluates the proposed decision in consideration of protests then issues a final multiple-use decision. The final decision is subject to appeal by anyone who considers themselves adversely affected by the decision and who has participated in the process.

Once BLM implements its multiple-use decision, watersheds are monitored and conditions are compared to the standards for rangeland health. In cases where significant progress is not being made towards meeting those standards, a re-evaluation is conducted and decisions may be modified to take corrective action.

If wild horse or burro populations exceed the set AML in a designated HMA and rangeland conditions indicate there is a need to remove excess animals, BLM develops a plan for gathering and removing excess wild horses and burros. After removing the excess animals, BLM's goal is to place the animals in good homes through its adoption program. (Go to www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov for adoption information.)

Reaching AMLs on HMAs should not be confused with administering grazing allotments. An allotment is an area of federal land designated and managed for grazing of domestic livestock. Several allotments—not necessarily owned by the same permittee—can overlap one HMA. Managing uses and resources within this HMA can be challenging, especially in years of drought or heavy snowfall. Improving or maintaining healthy rangelands requires monitoring and adjustments if BLM is to meet its mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. Setting AMLs for Nevada's 102 HMAs is just part of the job. Once AML is set, we work to reach that number and then keep working to stay within that level.

– **Debra Kolkman**
Nevada State Office

Aerial Seeding of Andrew Fire Ready for Spring

Last August a fast-moving wildfire just south of Reno burned six primary residences, 14 outbuildings, 22 vehicles, and 2,744 acres of public and private lands, despite BLM and Reno Fire Department efforts to hit it with everything they could. More than 25 aircraft and 500 firefighters quickly rallied to suppress the fire.

The quick response didn't end when the fire went out. The first part of the rehabilitation work on the burned lands, aerial seeding, was finished in January. The BLM contracted an El Aero helicopter to drop a seed mixture on 1,764 acres of public land burned by the Andrew Fire.

By successfully seeding the area, the newly emerging plants will provide stability for these highly erosive slopes, preventing off-site potential runoff damage by rainfall. It will reduce the invasion and establishment of undesirable or invasive species of vegetation, particularly noxious weeds and cheat grass. It will provide quality

forage and habitat for wildlife such as mule deer, sagebrush obligate animals and migratory birds of management concern.

The next phase of the rehabilitation project will be to construct soil check dams in the major drainage above the Andrew Lane housing subdivision. This work was delayed by heavy snow fall. BLM will use Nevada Division of Forestry prison crews to build the check dams this spring. Total project rehabilitation costs are estimated at \$600,000.

The Andrew Fire was started accidentally on Wed., Aug. 25, by an individual target shooting on public lands. The fire was pushed by high winds and quickly threatened over 300 homes and closed U.S. Highway 395 and Nevada State Route 341 (Geiger Grade).

– **Mark Struble**
Carson City Field Office





F W S A N N O

No Sage-Grouse ...

When the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) announced that the greater sage-grouse did not warrant endangered species protection at this time, some people breathed a sigh of relief and others breathed a sigh of disappointment. No matter which sigh one emitted, the post-reaction is to take a deep breath and keep on working. Listing or not, we are facing a potential crisis.

According to the FWS, the not-warranted decision was based in part on private-public conservation planning efforts to maintain and restore existing populations of sage-grouse. The people involved in that massive localized planning effort look at the decision as an opportunity to get to the same point, but achieving it by working together rather than being confined by regulation.

A listing as endangered or threatened requires management by a defined regulatory process—a process that doesn't emphasize cooperative conservation efforts. With listing most management decisions to protect the bird would be made by the Interior Department rather than by states. While the ESA is a necessary tool for the protection of some species, in some cases it can hinder the ability to manage with innovation and flexibility.

Cooperative conservation efforts can work in Nevada. Two examples are the desert tortoise and the Amargosa toad. Conservation planning and actions developed and implemented on a local level resulted in a listing of the desert tortoise as a threatened rather than endangered species and kept the Amargosa toad from being listed. Those efforts were at a smaller scale than the sage-grouse

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will require, but they showed there is an alternative to the black-and-white of regulation.

BLM Director Kathleen Clarke, speaking at a national conference for sage-grouse local working groups, said the strength behind cooperative efforts is the commitment that people make and the ownership they take in the process and outcomes.

"It takes more than rules and regulations to recover a species—it takes people," said Clarke. **"Working together on the sage-grouse issue is critical. Sage-grouse is a state managed species; BLM's role is to manage habitat."**

Grassroots conservation planning for sage-grouse is one of the largest mobilizations of the public in a conservation effort ever made according to Nevada Department of Wildlife Director Terry Crawforth.

"This range-wide effort to conserve sagebrush and sage-grouse using an incentive-based, publicly-driven process is an historic new model for conserving a species before it needs protection by the ESA," said Crawforth.

The Nevada Department of Wildlife has the leadership for the Governor's Sage-Grouse Conservation Planning Team, a statewide effort consisting of seven local working groups that include land users, agency specialists and other interested people. With the planning nearly completed, the emphasis is moving to getting the most important projects started on the ground and coordinating available funding.



U N C E M E N T

... Without Sagebrush

The BLM developed an interim national strategy outlining additional steps it will take to guide field offices until the state and local conservation plans are completed and integrated into BLM's land use plans. BLM's role in sagebrush habitat protection and enhancement is especially important in Nevada. Of the 11 western states with sage-grouse populations, 25 percent of the remaining sagebrush in the west is in Nevada.

Current population estimates are from 100,000 to 500,000 birds. Range wide the populations are in decline, but some populations have stabilized and some have increased. Range wide the degradation, fragmentation and loss of sagebrush habitat from wildland fire, urban encroachment, invasive weeds, livestock grazing, mining, energy development and rights-of-way for power lines, pipelines and roads is undeniable. But on examination the data didn't meet the thresholds in the Endangered Species Act (ESA). A species is considered endangered if it is in danger of extinction within all or a significant portion of its range. A species is considered threatened if it is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.

BLM field offices have conducted numerous fuels management projects to reduce the threat of wildland fire to large areas of sagebrush. By mowing wide, undulating swaths, fire breaks are created and decadent stands of sagebrush are rejuvenated. Leaving mosaics of sagebrush intact continues to provide habitat for sage-grouse and the many other bird and wildlife species that are dependent on sagebrush for shelter and food.

Studies to learn more about the needs of sage-grouse and the habitat they use during the year are ongoing. Especially important to know are areas sage-grouse use for brooding and rearing chicks and favored feeding areas. Identification of sage-grouse population areas and the condition of sagebrush habitat is building a solid base for prioritizing actions and land-use planning.

The sage-grouse planning team pressed hard to get to the point where they could show the FWS that the cooperative conservation effort is credible. Now the working groups are re-energizing for the road ahead—to actually improve sagebrush habitat and increase sage-grouse numbers.



Wetland-riparian habitat in the Winnemucca Field Office managed Little Owyhee allotment. This type of habitat is important for sage-grouse brood rearing. It offers water, cover and low-growing forbs.

NEVADA MINING

Final Bond Release for the Ren Mine

Ren Mine in 1994 during active mining.



Mined area has been recontoured and planted with seed. Good plant growth shows success of rehabilitation efforts.

A Nevada mining milestone was reached in February with the release of a reclamation bond for the Ren Mine—making it the first mine to be successfully reclaimed in the Carlin Trend.

The Ren Mine was a small-scale open pit mining operation, consisting of an open pit, heap leach pad and waste rock disposal facility. The 60 acres of surface disturbance on public lands caused by mining has been completely reclaimed. The heap leach pad, waste rock dump and access road were all re-contoured and reseeded with native plants. The process pond was backfilled, re-contoured and reseeded. Vegetation is growing, antelope and elk have moved into the area and a wildlife trail crosses the heap leach pad.

The Carlin Trend accounts for more than half of the gold production in the United States. The Trend is often called the greatest gold discovery of the 20th century because more than 50 million ounces of gold have been produced from mines in the area since 1961.

The Ren Mine claims were staked in 1982 by VEK Associates of Odessa, Texas. Ralph Roberts of VEK Associates was instrumental in the identification of the Carlin Trend in the 1950s. Over the years, the property was leased by several companies who performed exploration activities.

The Cordex Syndicate, the exploration company of Dee Gold Mining Company, acquired the claims in 1987. Dee Gold mined the property from 1988 through 1991, producing about 26,000 ounces of gold until the ore deposit was exhausted. Reclamation began in 1992. The closure and reclamation goal was to return the land to its pre-mining land uses of livestock grazing and wildlife habitat, and to make the area safe for public use.

– Mike Brown
Elko Field Office

NEVADA MINING

Newmont Sets Up First-Ever Long-Term Trust Fund For Phoenix Project Mine Site

The plan of operations for Newmont Mining Corporation's Phoenix Project mine not only describes how Newmont will voluntarily reclaim environmental impacts from more than a century of unregulated mining; the plan of operations also requires Newmont to establish a long-term trust fund to address potential groundwater problems long after the final reclamation of the site is approved.

The Phoenix Project Irrevocable Trust marks the first time a new provision of federal mining regulations affecting the surface of mining claims has been used. The long-term contingency trust agreement addresses groundwater problems that could arise in the long-term, possibly after mine has shut down operations. The trust fund is expected to increase in value over time.

The Phoenix Mine site is 15 miles south of Battle Mountain in the Battle Mountain Range. Gold mining started at the site in the 1860s. Since that time, various operators have mined gold, copper and silver at the site, until the present day.

Before 1981, mining on claims in Nevada was largely unregulated. The federal regulations for the surface management of mining claims (43 CFR 3809), which became effective in 1981, gave the BLM regulatory authority over hard rock and some industrial mining operations on public lands. These regulations

established the first reclamation bonding requirements for operators of such mining operations.

Significant revisions to the 3809 mining regulations became effective in January 2001, and included a new provision that allow the use of a long-term trust fund. This fund is designed to address potential problems that could arise after the final reclamation of the site is approved by federal and state agencies and the period of liability of a reclamation bond or bonds is terminated.

The Long-Term Contingent Fund (LTCF) is designed to address any long-term groundwater problems that are anticipated to occur. The LTCF for Phoenix includes not only the Phoenix Project Irrevocable Trust, which starts out at \$918,500, but also a \$1 million supplemental interim surety bond. BLM will review the net present value of the trust fund every three years and, if the fund is not growing at a six percent annual rate, Newmont will be required to make up the difference. The surety bond is to remain in effect for 30 years to cover any additional funds needed, should Newmont fail to deposit any additionally required funds.

The fund will ensure long-term treatment of water from rain and snow melt percolating through tailings piles and waste rock dumps, and leaching acid into the groundwater. In the event that water draining into the underlying aquifer contains an unacceptably high level of acid, the trust fund would pay for pumping the groundwater from the aquifer to a treatment plant, where the acid would be removed.

– Richard Brown
Nevada State Office

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MINING CLAIMS

Filing A Mining Claim 101: For The Casual Use Prospector

Have you thought about filing a mining claim, but you don't know what to do, where to go and how to do it?

The first thing you'll need to do is get on the Internet and log onto the Nevada Land Record web site at:

<http://nvso3web1n/landrecords/>

Here you can examine more than 5,000 Master Title Plats to determine the land ownership and status of the site where you want to stake a mining claim. This is also where you'll find the legal description of the land, which you will need later on.

You'll also need to check BLM's online LR2000 database and the County Recorder to determine whether or not someone else has already filed a claim on the site you're interested in. The LR2000 database is located on the web at:

<http://www.blm.gov/lr2000/>

You may visit any BLM office to search these two databases and get help with your online research. Get yourself a blank notice of location at either the BLM Office or the County Recorder, and you'll be ready to head out to the site.

Mining claim forms, including certificates of location are also available online at: <http://minerals.state.nv.us/>

When you get to the mining site, look around to make sure no other claims have been staked. What you'll be looking for is a wooden or metal post planted in the ground, an existing tree or even a pile of stones with a notice of location attached. If you don't see some sort of monument, go ahead place your own location monument to define the boundaries of the claim.

These monuments hearken back to the early days of mining in Nevada, when a prospector would make a pile of stones, write his claim to the site on a scrap of paper, put it into an old tobacco can and place the can in the pile of stones.

After you fill out the notice of location, complete with the legal description of the site, attach it to the monument. A can or jar attached to the monument will do. Within 90 days of the mining claim location date, which is the date on the notice, you must go to both the BLM State Office and the County Recorder to file a certificate of location. You'll need to bring a map that shows where your claim is located.

The BLM will charge you \$135 to file your claim. Annual maintenance fees of \$100 per year/per claim are due to the BLM on or before September 1. BLM will assign a serial number to each mining claim filed, which will be used to track your claim.

The data from your certificate of location will be entered into the LR2000 database under the assigned serial number. BLM will double-check the land status of your claim site to verify whether the site is open to location (mining). BLM also creates a physical, paper case file for the site that can be viewed by the public.

The Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology publishes a useful handbook called Mining Claim Procedures for Nevada Prospectors and Miners. You may buy this nifty handbook at the Nevada Bureau of Mines or the BLM Nevada State Office in Reno. The handbook is also available online at:

www.nbmjg.unr.edu/sales/pbs.htm

THE HANDBOOK SPELLS OUT:

- Who can locate a mining claim.
- The types of mining claims and mill sites available for location.
- The dimensions of each type of claim or site.
- The placement and type of monuments to be used.
- The required filing and maintenance requirements of recording and maintaining a mining claim or mill site.

If you like to go to the source, take a look at the Code of Federal Regulations on mining at 43CFR3830 online at:

www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr

You may get copies of the CFR and other helpful publications at a BLM office. Then throw your pick and shovel into the back of your pickup truck and head out to your new claim for some casual-use prospecting.

– Richard Brown
Nevada State Office

Two Awards for Black Rock Plan

The Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area Management Resource Management Plan, developed by the Winnemucca Field Office with contractor Booz-Allen-Hamilton and lots of public input, is a co-winner of the American Planning Association Award for Outstanding Federal Planning Project. The award was presented to representatives of the contractor at the Federal Planning Division's annual conference in March.

Last October, BLM Director Kathleen Clarke presented 74 people, both in and out of the government, with a Four Cs Award. The recipients had made significant contributions to the resource management plan. Their cooperative relationship is a model of collaborative planning.



NEVADA MINING

Validity Exams Determine Status Of Mining Claims In Wilderness Areas

The U.S. Congress has established 38 wilderness areas in Nevada since 1999. It's a safe bet that many of these wilderness areas contain unpatented mining claims that have existing valid rights-until proven otherwise.

Proving otherwise requires something called a validity exam to determine whether the mining claim can be properly located and maintained. A physical examination of the claim is made to determine if there is the presence of locatable minerals like gold, silver, copper, and if there is a realistic ability to profitably mine these minerals.

Conducting a validity exam isn't required just because a claim is in a wilderness area. If the claimant files a plan of operations with the BLM, a validity exam becomes mandatory. Otherwise management has the discretion of whether or when to conduct a validity exam.

One reason why a manager might decide to order a validity exam would be a perceived conflict between management plans

for administrative developments in the wilderness area and existing mining claims.

Such administrative developments might include hiking trails, foot bridges over steep inclines, signs and fencing around riparian areas or abandoned mine sites. If the mining claim turns out to be valid, the manager might decide to avoid spending scarce funds on these administrative developments.

If the mineral examiner determines that the claim is invalid, the agency will initiate a contest against the claim. If the claimant fails to respond within 30 days, BLM declares the claim void.

However, should the claimant answer and appeal the complaint, an administrative law judge in the Office of Hearings and Appeals will hold a hearing and determine the validity of the claim. In most cases, the judge will either declare the claim valid or invalid.

– Richard Brown
Nevada State Office

New Las Vegas Field Office Manager

Juan Palma started his duties as the field manager for BLM's Las Vegas Field Office in March. He brings more than 20 years of natural resource experience around the west to his new position.

Palma comes to Nevada from BLM's Colorado Western Slope Office where he supervised more than 300 employees, oversaw three interagency fire organizations and provided internal services to seven BLM offices.

Palma's most recent Nevada experience was executive director for Tahoe Regional Planning, a bi-state compact agency that oversees all land use planning activities within the Lake Tahoe Region. Other work experiences include forest supervisor for the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and district manager for the BLM Vale District in Oregon.

Palma began his career on the Malheur National Forest in 1984 and held various Forest Service positions as budget officer, administrative officer, district ranger and deputy forest supervisor.

Palma was raised in Toppenish, Washington. He attended Brigham Young University and graduated from Oregon State University with a Business Management degree. He received a Master's degree in Environmental Sciences from the University of Nevada, Reno.

New Winnemucca Field Office Manager

Gail Givens is the new field manager at the BLM's Winnemucca Field Office. His most recent position was the assistant field manager, nonrenewableresources at the Battle Mountain Field Office.

Givens brings 22 years of BLM experience in Arizona, California, Nevada and Washington, D.C., and 13 years in the private sector to his new position.

Givens grew up in Susanville, California. He is a 1968 graduate of Humboldt State College in Arcata, California, where he earned a degree in NaturalResources Conservation.

INDIAN CREEK CAMPGROUND

Members of the Nevada Air National Guard, 152nd Civil Engineering Squadron install new barrier-free water hydrants and drinking fountains at the BLM's Indian Creek Campground south of Gardnerville. Twelve members of

the squadron participated in the service project. Their efforts saved the BLM at least \$3,000 in equipment and labor costs.

Photos by Dan Jacquet



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